

COUNTRY Eastern GermanyREPORT NO.  TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training Grounds

25X1 EVALUATION   PLACE OBTAINED   25X1

DATE OF CONTENT June to 13 July 195225X1 DATE OBTAINED   DATE REDUCED 11 August 195225X1 REFERENCES  PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  REMARKS  

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1. During the period from 30 June to 5 July 1952, there was intensive training activity including firing practice, drill with and without rifles, entrenching practice, telephone construction practice of small groups of soldiers in the vicinity of Camp Vogelsang at the Templin (N 54/U 81) troop training grounds. No large-scale combat practices were conducted. (1) Bricks and other construction material were hauled to the area west of Hammelspring Bridge between Kamenburg and Schulzenflies and therefore source concluded that the new barracks installation will be built there rather than west of Vogelsang railroad station. No additional barracks were constructed west of this railroad station. (2)

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2. During the period from 30 June to 3 July, source determined that a cantonment consisting of not less than eight barracks quartering troops with black-bordered black epaulets and red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia was situated on the eastern shore of Grossvaeter Lake. Source saw five trucks with pontoons, 10 pontoons already unloaded and several motor boats on the shore.

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Eight trucks carrying barracks sections passed through Gross Boellin on 1 July, coming from the direction of Kurteichlag and proceeding toward Grossvaeter.

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Four frame saws in the woods east of Grunewald were used by Soviet troops for the cutting of boards which were then hauled to Camp Grossvaeter-Lake. (3)

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3. During the period from 1 to 3 July, the troops from Camp Hammelspring were engaged in combat firing with rifles, submachine guns and light machine guns, instruction with rocket launchers, orientation in the terrain by means of prismatic compass in groups of three men with rifles and light equipment, and telephone construction practice in the vicinity of the camp.

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(1)

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5. A troop camp, numerous trucks, [redacted] and several tanks were observed on Crossvaeter Lake, 14 km east of Zehdenick, on 29 June. (3) Exercises involving a total of about 70 trucks

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6. On 12 July, source determined that a strip, 20 meters wide, and allegedly destined for the construction of a spur track to Grunewald, was cleared from the Vogelsang railroad station **eastward** to Deutschoden. The clearing of woods for Camp Grunewald had started. Three frame saws were in operation. (3)

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7. At the beginning of July 1952, source learned [redacted] that the troop quarters in Camp Vogelsang and Camp Hammelspring at the Templin troop training grounds were to be replaced by permanent barracks by 1 October. Two hundred masons and 50 carpenters were needed for the construction of the barracks, and that the VEB Kreisbaubetrieb (county building enterprise) in Prenzlau was said to be charged with the execution of the project. (2)

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8. [redacted] about 8,000 construction workers were to be detached to the Vietmannsdorf-Vogelsang area to build a new railroad line and a military installation.

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[redacted] The railroad line was said to run from Wilmersdorf (N 53/2 89) in a southerly direction to Zehdenick via Gross Schenbeck. At the time of observation, barracks for the workers were under construction in Vogelsang and Vietmannsdorf. An engineer stated that a runway was to be built in the area of Vietmannsdorf. (2)

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Comments.

(1) The report tends to indicate that no changes occurred in the occupation of Camps Vogelsang, Kammerburg and Hammelspring. [redacted] Training activity and supply traffic are considered normal. In the [redacted]

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(2) On the basis of previous reports, it was determined that new barracks installations were scheduled to be built west of the Vogelsang railroad station and in the area of Camp Hammelspring. [redacted]

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(3) The information confirms the building project which will probably be a troop camp in the area of Grunewald-Crossvaeter-Vietmannsdorf and the camp on the

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eastern shore of Grossvaeter Lake which has already been occupied by engineer troops. [redacted] The arrival of trucks of the 7th Gds Tank Div and the 10th Gds Tank Div with billeting equipment as well as the appearance of motor vehicles of the 25th Tank Div of the 360th Engr Bn of the XXVIII Gds Ltz Rifle Corps and of engineer troops of the 10th Gds Tank Div make it appear that an old training grounds there is being enlarged and, possibly, will be chiefly for elements of the Fourth Gds Vecz Army. Further information is required to determine whether this training grounds will be used only as emergency training grounds until the completion of the buildings in the Templin troop training area.

(4) Presumably, elements of the 122d (?) Gds Engr Bn of the 7th Gds Vecz Div as, [redacted] a train went from Templin to Lieberose on 12 July 1952. [redacted]

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